ABSTRACT

The present invention addresses the difficulties of controlling new devices

5   which have been added to a network. A network protocol, the NetCTL protocol,

enables a remote control device to dynamically learn the command codes of a newly

network attached device if the new device is executing the protocol. The intervention

of a system administrator is not necessary since the dynamic learning process happens

automatically when the new device is attached to the network. Because the protocol

10   allows the remote control device to learn the codes dynamically, there is no need to

consult previously written tables of commands which can omit the codes for newly

invented devices. A user of the remote control device which has "learned" the codes

(i.e. acquired the codes) for a network attached device is able to control that device,

regardless of the device's physical location, by selecting and sending the network

15   attached device a command code to perform an operation.